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DEPT FOR WHA/CAR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: T&T UNLIKELY TO OPPOSE BELARUS'S RETALIATORY RESOLUTIONS
AGAINST U.S.

REF: A. STATE 187018

11. The Ambassador made a number of attempts on November 15 to schedule an immediate meeting and/or make telephone contact with Foreign Minister Arnold Piggott in order to present Reftel talking points. When we received no response, Polchief faxed the talking points to the MFA and followed up on November 16 with MFA Multilateral Division Director Susan Gordon.

12. Without having studied the three resolutions herself, Gordon took note of the talking points, undertook to communicate gain with the T&T mission in New York, but said that, unless we hear from her, T&T will likely not budge from its long standing policy of abstaining on country specific human rights resolutions. Accordingly, she said we may expect T&T to abstain on "Situations on Human Rights and Democracy in the United States of America" and on "Inadmissibility of Human Rights Violations through the Practice of Secret Detention and Unlawful Transfers While Countering Terrorism".

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As for "Promotion of Equitable and Mutually Respectful Dialogue on Human Rights", Gordon said that, provided it is worded to T&T's satisfaction, T&T may well support it.

AUSTIN